



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

April 23, 2004

**LOCAL DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO LIFE**

Orlando, Florida - U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway, today sentenced CHARLES HOWELL MONTGOMERY, age 40, of DeLand, Florida, to life imprisonment plus 30 years consecutive and ordered forfeiture of all of his drug related assets.

CHARLES HOWELL MONTGOMERY was found guilty by a jury on February 5, 2004 for his involvement in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of cocaine base, commonly known as "crack" cocaine and cocaine hydrochloride; five counts relating to the distribution of "crack" cocaine and cocaine hydrochloride; two counts of possession of firearms by a convicted felon; and two counts of possession of firearms during and in relation to drug trafficking offenses. In addition, the jury ordered forfeiture of all of his assets.

According to Court documents, CHARLES HOWELL MONTGOMERY has eight prior felony convictions. Four of MONTGOMERY's prior felony convictions are drug convictions, three are convictions are for resisting police with violence and one prior conviction is for carrying a concealed weapon.

According to evidence produced at sentencing, CHARLES HOWELL MONTGOMERY continued to attempt to run his drug trafficking organization after his arrest and incarceration on October 2, 2003. Law enforcement agents were able to uncover and thwart his attempts to run his drug organization from jail; his attempts to identify, locate and kill witnesses against him, and his plans to escape from federal custody.

"We're extremely pleased with the outcome of today's sentencing," said Volusia County Sheriff Ben Johnson, a key player in a narcotics task force that worked alongside the DeLand Police Department and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in bringing charges against the defendant. "Charles Montgomery has been responsible for a great many crimes in our community, and we're relieved for the citizens of Volusia County that he will no longer be walking our streets. From start to finish, this case has been a textbook example of local and federal law enforcement working together to make our community safe."

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez agreed with Sheriff Johnson and emphasized the excellent results that can be obtained as a result of a combined local and federal law enforcement effort.

The case was investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office, the City of DeLand Police Department and the United States Marshal's Service. The case was prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Rick L. Jancha.